

# Practical Uses of Rural NTD Data

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# The Law

- (4) Data collection – each recipient under this section shall submit an annual report to the Secretary containing information on capital investment, operations, and service provided with funds received under this section, including—
- (A) total annual revenue;
  - (B) sources of revenue;
  - (C) total annual operating costs;
  - (D) total annual capital costs;
  - (E) fleet size and type, and related facilities;
  - (F) revenue vehicle miles; and
  - (G) ridership.

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, Pub. L. No. 109-59. 119 Stat 1594 (2006).

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# The Purpose

- Formulate national policy
  - Guide state and regional planning and investment
  - Research
  - Private sector
  - Performance measurement by transit agencies
- ...and more

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# The Game Plan

- Practical Applications of Rural NTD Data
- Getting the data
- Crunching the numbers
- Using the information

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# Practical Applications of Rural NTD Data

- Focus on the use of Rural NTD data by transit agencies for the purposes of
  - Education
  - Evaluation
  - Planning
- With Rural NTD data in hand, much of the work is already done

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# Getting the Data

- Transit agencies should have their own data
- Data for other agencies
  - Ask the state DOT nicely?
  - Wait until the national dataset is available

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# 14 Pieces of Data

- Service data
  - Vehicle revenue miles
  - Vehicle revenue hours
  - Unlinked trips
- Vehicle data
  - Number of vehicles
  - Capacity
- Financial data
  - Fare revenue
  - Operating funds  
(Local, state, federal, and total)
  - Capital funds  
(Local, state, federal, and total)

# Crunching the Numbers

- Create a  
**Transit Agency Performance Profile  
(TAPP)**
- One page document/three slide presentation
- Includes service, financial, and operating data (from NTD)
- Includes calculated performance measures

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# Example TAPP Data

## Elder Care

2008

### *Transit Agency Performance Profile*

#### **Financial Data**

##### *Operating Funds*

Fare Revenue	\$35,603
Local Funds	
State Funds	\$90,535
Federal Assistance	\$109,000
Other Funds	\$92,685
Total Operating Expenses	\$327,823

##### *Capital Funds*

Local Funds	\$6,658
State Funds	
Federal Assistance	\$26,627
Other Funds	
Total Capital Expenses	\$33,285

#### **Service Data**

Vehicle Revenue Miles	150,521
Vehicle Revenue Hours	11,473
Unlinked Trips	23,455

#### **Vehicle Data**

Number of Vehicles	6
Average Capacity	10

# Performance Measures

- Calculations
  - Service effectiveness
    - Trips/Vehicle Revenue  
Mile
    - Trips/Vehicle Revenue  
Hour
  - Service efficiency
    - Operating  
Expense/Vehicle Revenue  
Mile
    - Operating  
Expense/Vehicle Revenue  
Hour
  - Cost Effectiveness
    - Operating Expense/Trip
  - Capacity Use
    - Trips/Vehicle
    - Vehicle Revenue  
Miles/Vehicle
    - Vehicle Revenue  
Hours/Vehicle

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# Example TAPP Data Part II

## Elder Care

2008

### *Transit Agency Performance Profile*

#### **Service Effectiveness**

Trips per mile	0.16
Trips per hour	2.04

#### **Service Efficiency**

Operating expense per mile	\$	2.18
Operating expense per hour	\$	28.57

#### **Capacity Use**

Trips per vehicle	3,909
Miles per vehicle	25,087
Hours per vehicle	1,912

#### **Cost Effectiveness**

Operating expense per trip	\$	13.98
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# The Most Important Part

- **Use the information!**
- Education
  - Your board
  - Your community
- Evaluate and manage operations
  - Compare TAPP year over year
  - Compare against peers
- Planning

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# Closing Thoughts

- There is tremendous potential value in Rural NTD data
- Much of the work is done
- Prepare a TAPP or similar information
- Use the information

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